

CLAIMS

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

- 1 1. A method for conducting a transaction, comprising:
2 associating a plurality of distinct rules with a respective plurality of distinct
3 entities;
4 contemporaneously with or after said associating a plurality of distinct rules with
5 a plurality of distinct entities, determining that one of said plurality of entities is
6 conducting a transaction;
7 determining a rule from said plurality of rules that is associated with said one of
8 said plurality of entities regarding said transaction; and
9 conducting said transaction in accordance with said rule.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said rule is based, at least in part, on at least one
2 of the following:
3 a barter credit;
4 a spot price for a product;
5 a price of a product involved in said transaction;
6 a minimum number of products purchased during said transaction;
7 a maximum number of products purchased during said transaction;
8 a payment term associated with said transaction;
9 a delivery requirement associated with said transaction;
10 a shipping requirement associated with said transaction;
11 a quality requirement for a product involved in said transaction;
12 bundled products associated with said transaction;
13 a customer associated with said transaction;
14 an amount of inventory of a product involved in said transaction; and

15 availability of a product involved in said transaction.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining a rule from said plurality of
2 rules includes at least one of the following:
3 determining an identifier associated with said one of said plurality of entities; and
4 receiving a notification of said rule.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said conducting said transaction in accordance
2 with said rule includes at least one of the following:
3 determining a product involved in said transaction;
4 determining a spot price for a product;
5 determining a price for a product involved in said transaction;
6 applying a barter credit to said transaction;
7 applying a predetermined credit term to said transaction;
8 applying a predetermined payment term to said transaction;
9 applying a predetermined discount to said transaction;
10 selling a non-financial product;
11 purchasing a non-financial product;
12 selling a dynamically priced product;
13 purchasing a dynamically priced product;
14 determining an average price for a product over a designated period of time;
15 determining a minimum price for a product over a designated period of time;
16 determining a maximum price for a product over a designated period of time;
17 applying a function of market prices for a product over a designated period of
18 time for said product when said product is involved in said transaction;
19 providing a fulfillment priority to said transaction;
20 determining logistics terms for said transaction;
21 providing a designated price to a product involved in said transaction;
22 providing a notification of said rule; and

23 providing an authorization to conduct said transaction.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining that one of said plurality of
2 entities is conducting a transaction includes receiving a notification that one of said
3 plurality of entities is conducting a transaction.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein said receiving a notification that one of said
2 plurality of entities is conducting a transaction includes at least one of the following:
3 receiving said notification from a user device;
4 receiving said notification from a server;
5 receiving said notification from a device associated with a marketplace;
6 receiving an electronic communication via a communications network;
7 receiving a notification of a marketplace involved in said transaction;
8 receiving said notification from said entity;
9 receiving said notification from a marketplace involved in said transaction; and
10 receiving said notification from a party other than said entity involved in said
11 transaction.

1 7. The method of claim 5, wherein said notification comprises at least one of the
2 following:
3 an email message;
4 an XML feed;
5 an HTTP transmission;
6 an HTML transmission;
7 an FTP transmission;
8 a wireless transmission;
9 an instant message communication;
10 an electronic communication sent via a communications network;
11 a facsimile transmission;

12 a telephone signal; and
13 a radio signal.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein said associating a plurality of rules with a
2 respective plurality of entities includes at least one of the following:
3 determining at least one rule that will apply for an entity conducting a transaction;
4 and
5 receiving a notification of a rule to associate with one of said plurality of entities.

1 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 providing a notification regarding said transaction to a marketplace.

1 10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 providing a notification regarding said transaction to said one of said plurality of
3 entities.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein said rule includes a condition and a result.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein said conducting said transaction includes
2 determining if said condition is satisfied.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein said conducting said transaction includes
2 providing said result if said condition is satisfied.

1 14. The method of claim 12, wherein said conducting said transaction includes
2 providing a notification that said condition is satisfied.

1 15. The method of claim 11, wherein said condition includes at least one of the
2 following:

- 3 a requirement that a minimum number of products be purchased as part of said
4 transaction;
- 5 a requirement of a predetermined lead time between said transaction and delivery
6 of a product involved in said transaction;
- 7 a requirement of a predetermined lead time between said transaction and shipping
8 of a product involved in said transaction;
- 9 a requirement of a cumulative transactional volume over a designated time period;
- 10 a requirement of a cumulative transactional volume by said one of said plurality
11 of entities;
- 12 a requirement of a cumulative transactional volume at a designated marketplace;
- 13 a requirement of an availability of a product involved in said transaction;
- 14 a requirement that a specific entity be involved in said transaction;
- 15 a requirement that a specific marketplace be involved in said transaction;
- 16 a requirement that a specific marketplace not be involved in said transaction;
- 17 a requirement that a specific entity not be involved in said transaction;
- 18 a requirement for an insurance policy associated with said transaction;
- 19 a requirement that a specific product be bundled with said transaction;
- 20 a requirement of a minimum financial amount involved in said transaction; and
- 21 a requirement of a designated security associated with said transaction.

1 16. The method of claim 1, wherein said transaction involves at least one of the
2 following:

- 3 a dynamically priced product; and
4 a non-financial product.

1 17. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 determining a charge associated with at least one of said associating a plurality of
3 rules with a respective plurality of entities, said receiving a notification that one of said
4 plurality of entities is conducting a transactions, said determining a rule from said

5 plurality of rules that is associated with said one of said plurality of entities, and said
6 conducting said transaction.

1 18. The method of claim 17, further comprising:
2 providing a notification of said charge.

1 19. The method of claim 17, wherein said charge is based, at least in part, on at least
2 one of the following:

- 3 a monetary amount involved in said transaction;
- 4 a non-financial product involved in said transaction;
- 5 a dynamically priced product involved in said transaction;
- 6 an anticipated cost savings associated with said transaction;
- 7 a realized cost savings associated with said transaction;
- 8 a cost associated with said transaction relative to a benchmark;
- 9 an anticipated benefit associated with said transaction;
- 10 a realized benefit associated with said transaction;
- 11 a benefit associated with said transaction relative to a benchmark;
- 12 a delivery requirement associated with said transaction;
- 13 a financial requirement associated with said transaction;
- 14 a number of entities in said plurality of entities;
- 15 a number of rules in said plurality of rules,
- 16 a number of products involved in said transaction;
- 17 a number of times said rule from said plurality of rules has been applied in
18 previous transactions;
- 19 a number of times said entity from said plurality of entities has been involved in
20 previous transactions; and
- 21 a marketplace involved in said transaction.

1 20. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 modifying said rule from said plurality of rules.

1 21. The method of claim 20, wherein said modifying said rule from said plurality of
2 rules occurs after said conducting said transaction in accordance with said rule.

1 22. A method for facilitating a transaction, comprising:
2 associating a first rule governing a first transaction with a first entity, wherein a
3 first marketplace will honor said first rule when said first entity conducts said first
4 transaction at said first marketplace;
5 associating a second rule governing a second transaction with a second entity,
6 wherein a second marketplace will honor said second rule when said second entity
7 conducts said second transaction at said second marketplace; and
8 authorizing application of said first rule when said first entity conducts said first
9 transaction at said first marketplace and application of said second rule when said second
10 entity conducts said second transaction at said second marketplace.

1 23. The method of claim 22, wherein said first rule includes a condition and a result.

1 24. The method of claim 23, wherein said applying said first rule includes
2 determining if said condition is met.

1 25. The method of claim 23, wherein said applying said first rule includes providing
2 said result if said condition is met.

1 26. The method of claim 22, wherein said first marketplace and said second
2 marketplace are the same but said first rule and said second rule are different.

1 27. The method of claim 22, wherein said first marketplace and said second
2 marketplace are different but said first rule is the same as said second rule.

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- 1 28. The method of claim 22, further comprising:
2 receiving a notification when said first entity initiates said first transaction.
- 1 29. The method of claim 28, further comprising:
2 receiving a notification when said second entity initiates said second transaction.
- 1 30. The method of claim 22, wherein said first transaction involves at least one of the
2 following:
3 a dynamically priced product; and
4 a non-financial product.
- 1 31. A method for facilitating a transaction, comprising:
2 associating a plurality of rules with a respective plurality of entities;
3 receiving a notification of a transaction involving one of said plurality of entities;
4 determining one of said plurality of rules that is associated with said transaction;
5 and
6 providing a notification of said one of said plurality of rules.
- 1 32. The method of claim 31, wherein said providing a notification of said one of said
2 plurality of rules includes at least one of the following:
3 providing said notification to a marketplace; and
4 providing said notification to one of said plurality of entities.
- 1 33. The method of claim 31, wherein said transaction involves at least one of the
2 following:
3 a dynamically priced product; and
4 a non-financial product.
- 1 34. A method for conducting a transaction, comprising:

4 receiving a notification of said first entity conducting said first transaction; and
5 applying said first rule when said first entity conducts said first transaction.

1 36. The method of claim 35, further comprising:
2 applying said second rule when said second entity conducts said second
3 transaction.

1 37. The method of claim 34, wherein said first transaction involves at least one of the
2 following:
3 a dynamically priced product; and
4 a non-financial product.

1 38. A method for facilitating a transaction, comprising:
2 receiving a notification of a transaction involving a product;
3 determining a rule that is associated with said transaction; and
4 providing a notification of said rule.

1 39. A method for facilitating a transaction, comprising:
2 determining a rule associated with at least one product;
3 determining a plurality of transactions that satisfies said rule; and
4 applying said rule to at least one of said plurality of transactions.

1 40. The method of claim 39, wherein said determining a rule associated with at least
2 one product includes at least one of the following:

3 receiving a notification regarding said rule; and
4 receiving a notification of an identifier associated with said rule,

1 41. The method of claim 39, wherein said applying said rule to at least one of said
2 plurality of transactions includes at least one of the following:

3 applying a barter credit to said at least one transaction;
4 applying a predetermined credit term to said at least one transaction;
5 applying a predetermined payment term to said at least one transaction;
6 applying a predetermined discount to said at least one transaction;
7 selling a non-financial product in accordance with said rule;
8 purchasing a non-financial product in accordance with said rule;
9 selling a dynamically priced product in accordance with said rule;
10 purchasing a dynamically priced product in accordance with said rule;
11 determining an average price for a product over a designated period of time and
12 applying said average price to said at least one transaction;
13 determining a minimum price for a product over a designated period of time and
14 applying said minimum price to said at least one transaction;
15 determining a maximum price for a product over a designated period of time and
16 applying said maximum price to said at least one transaction;
17 applying a function of market prices for a product over a designated period of
18 time for said product when said product is involved in said at least one transaction;
19 providing a payment to an entity conducting at least one of said plurality of
20 transactions;
21 applying a price discount retroactively to at least one of said plurality of
22 transactions; and
23 providing a designated price to a product involved in said at least one transaction.

1 42. The method of claim 39, further comprising:

2 providing a notice of said applying said rule to at least one of said plurality of
3 transactions.

1 43. The method of claim 39, wherein at least one of said plurality of transactions
2 occurs prior to said determining a plurality of transactions that satisfies said rule.

1 44. The method of claim 39, wherein all said plurality of transactions occur prior to
2 said determining a plurality of transactions that satisfies said rule.

1 45. The method of claim 39, wherein at least one of said plurality of transactions
2 occurs after said determining a plurality of transactions that satisfies said rule.

1 46. A system for facilitating a transaction, comprising:
2 a memory;
3 a communication port; and
4 a processor connected to said memory and said communication port, said
5 processor being operative to:
6 associate a plurality of rules with a respective plurality of entities;
7 determine that one of said plurality of entities is conducting a transaction;
8 determine a rule from said plurality of rules that is associated with said
9 one of said plurality of entities regarding said transaction; and
10 authorize said transaction in accordance with said rule.

1 47. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for facilitating a
2 transaction, comprising:
3 first instructions for establishing a respective rule for each of a plurality of
4 entities;
5 second instructions for identifying one of said plurality of entities conducting a
6 transaction;

7 third instructions for identifying a rule associated with said one of said plurality of
8 entities; and
9 fourth instructions for sending an authorization of said transaction in accordance
10 with said rule.

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